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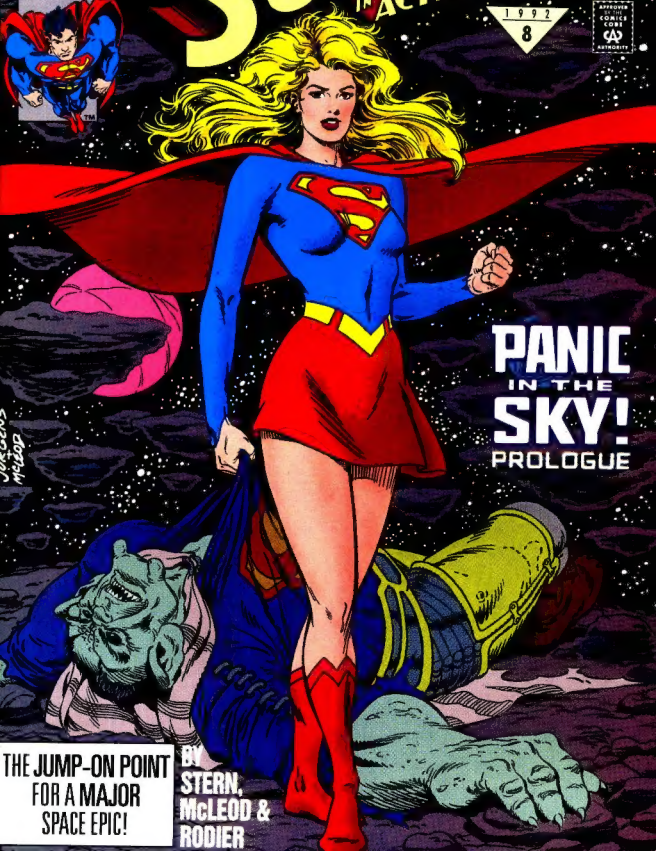
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SUPERGIRL

IN ACTION COMICS

1992

8



PANIC
IN THE
SKY!
PROLOGUE

THE JUMP-ON POINT
FOR A MAJOR
SPACE EPIC!

BY
STERN,
MCLEOD &
RODIER

< KLETUS-4 IS JUST LIKE A THOUSAND OTHER PLANETS... >

< DON'T GET ME WRONG, BUT IT'S NO CHEAP DINE! HEY, YOU COULD EVEN BRING YOUR HATCHLINGS IN HERE! >

< IT'S JUST THAT... SOMETIMES... EVEN IN THE NICEST PLACES... THINGS CAN GET A LITTLE CRAZY... >

< HEH-HEH-HEH! PAR-TEE! PAR-TEE! >

< HEY! HANDS OFF, BUSTER! >

< ... ITS BUSINESS IS BUSINESS, IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT. >

< I MEAN IT! LENNE GO!! >

< THAT'S WHEN THE STRANGER APPEARED. I'D NEVER EVEN HEARD HIM ENTER! >

< I DON'T THINK THE LADY WANTS YOUR AFFECTIONS!! >

< UH?!! >

< HE SPOKE INTERLAG LIKE A BEGINNER, AND HIS ACCENT WAS... STRANGE. HE WAS A BIG ONE... >

< DON'T--!! >

< NO! I COME HERE TO PAR-TEE!! >

< YOU NO LIKE TOO BAD!! >

SHRIKT

THE PAST IS PROLOGUE

(... BIG AND FAST! JUST THEN, I COULDN'T IMAGINE HOW HE'D AVOIDED GETTING CUT!)

(PERHAPS I FAILED TO MAKE MYSELF CLEAR...)

(NO BLOOD?!? BUT I FELT--!)

(WHAT YOU MADE OF... STEEL?!)

PLEASE-SIRS-TAKE-IT-OUTSIDE.

ROGER STERN • BOB MCLEOD • DENIS RODIER
WRITER PENCILER INKER
BILL OAKLEY • GLENN WHITMORE
LETTERER COLORIST
DAN THORSLAND • MIKE CARLIN
ASSISTANT CRUISING

SUPERMAN created by
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

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« THEN THAT LITTLE SPUD
LED HIM AWAY AS IF HE WERE
A PUPPY ! AND... CAN YOU
BELIEVE IT ? -- HE NEVER
EVEN LOOKED BACK
AT ME ... »



« ... NOT
ONCE ! »

« AND HOW
LONG AGO DID
THIS HAPPEN ? »

« HALF
A CYCLE,
WHY ? »



« IT COULDN'T HAVE
BEEN HIM, DRAAGA
HIS PLANET WASN'T
UP TO DEEP SPACE
TRAVEL. NO WAY
SUPERMAN COULD'VE
BEATEN US HERE ! »

« SUPERMAN'S
WAT THE LI'L
GUY CALLED HIM !
AND LIKE I WAS SAY-
ING, THE EMBLEM
ON HIS SHIRT WAS
A MATCH FOR
YOURS ! »



« THE DESCRIPTION
FITS... IT MUST
BE HIM ! »

« WE MUST FIND
HIM ! I MUST
REGAIN MY
HONOR ! »

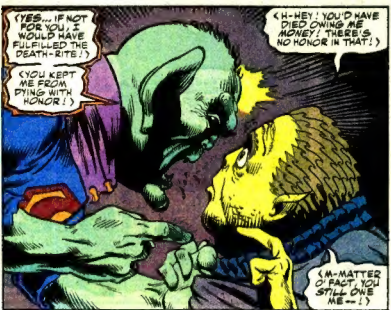


« YOU KNOW, YOU SHOULDN'T FIXATE
SO ON THIS SUPERMAN GUY... IT
AIN'T HEALTHY ! »

« I MUST KILL
HIM, K'RAADYN
... OR DIE IN THE
ATTEMPT ! »

« WHAT IS THE MATTER
WITH YOU ? HE NEARLY
KILLED YOU ONCE ALREADY
... ON THAT MOON OF
EARTH'S ! » « YOU'D HAVE
DIED THEN IF NOT FOR
ME ! »

« BACK IN
ADVENTURES
OF SUPERMAN
465. »



« YES... IF NOT
FOR YOU,
I WOULD HAVE
FULFILLED THE
DEATH-RITE ! »

« YOU KEPT
ME FROM
DYING WITH
HONOR ! »

« H-HEY ! YOU'D HAVE
DIED OWING ME
MONEY ! THERE'S
NO HONOR IN THAT ! »

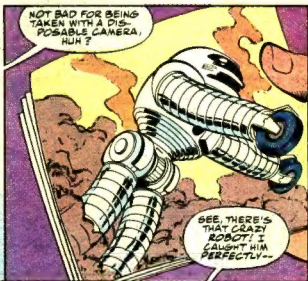
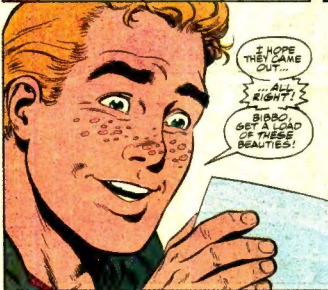
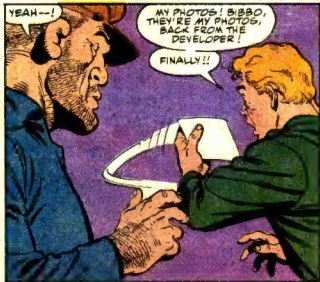
« M-MATTER
O' FACT, YOU
STILL OWE
ME -- ! »



« HERE,
THEN ... »

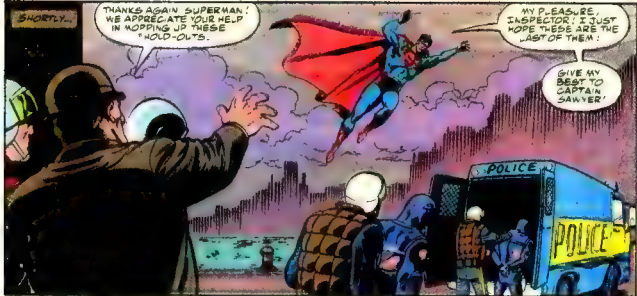
« GOODBY ! »

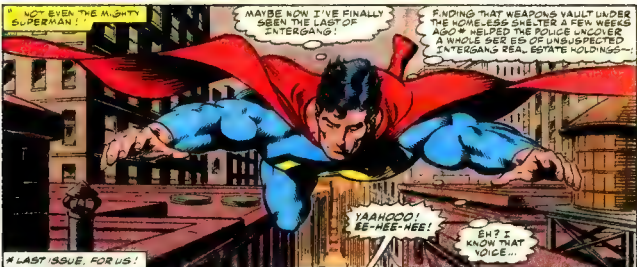
« ... CONSIDER
THAT DEBT
PAID ! »











"...BUT MY PRAYERS HAVE FINALLY BEEN ANSWERED."

"O GREAT DIVINE,
YOU WHO HAVE LED
KRYPTON'S LAST
SON BACK TO US..."

"...END NOW
HIS CONFUSION
AND RESTORE
HIS MIND!"

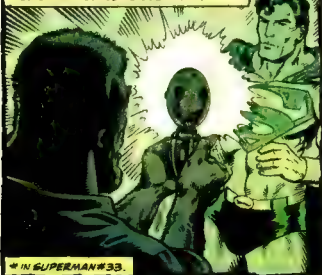
"CELLKEEPER, I DO NOT WANT TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BUT--
REALLY-- I AM NOT WHO YOU THINK I AM."

"BUT YOU ADMITTED
THAT YOU REMEMBERED
ME! AND I COULD
NEVER FORGET YOU."

"LOOK YOU MUST
REMEMBER THIS
SPOT WHERE WE
BURIED THE
NOBLE CLERIC!"

"(THE
CLERIC)"

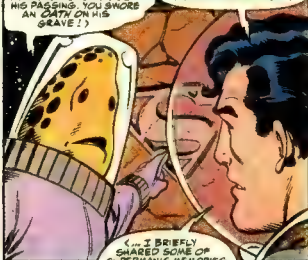
"(YES, THE CLERIC! FOR 200 MILLENNIA,
HE GUARDED THE MYSTERIOUS ERADICATOR
IN ACCEPTING THAT LEGACY OF KRYPTON, YOU
HELPED HIM FULFILL HIS DESTINY.)"



* IN SUPERMAN #33.

"(HE AND I AIDED YOU
IN THE GREAT GAMES OF
MONGUL... SURELY YOU
RECALL THAT! YOU
ENGRAVED YOUR SYMBOL
HERE, TO MEMORIALIZE
HIS PASSING. YOU SPORE
AN OATH ON HIS
GRAVE!)"

"(I... SEEM TO, YES. I
KNOW THAT HE MEANT A
GREAT DEAL TO YOU, CELL-
KEEPER... BUT THAT MEM-
ORY IS NOT MY OWN. YOU
MUST UNDERSTAND...)"

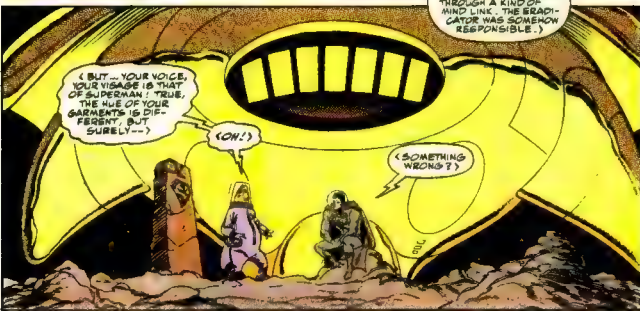


"...I BRIEFLY
SHARED SOME OF
SUPERMAN'S MEMORIES
THROUGH A KIND OF
MIND LINK. THE ERADI-
CATOR WAS SOMEHOW
RESPONSIBLE."

"(BUT... YOUR VOICE,
YOUR VISAGE IS THAT
OF SUPERMAN! TRUE,
THE HUE OF YOUR
GARMENTS IS DIFF-
FERENT, BUT
SURELY--)"

"(OH!)"

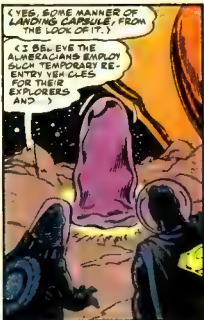
"(SOMETHING
WRONG?)"





(I-I DO NOT KNOW THAT SHIP IS ALMERACIAN IN DESIGN, BUT WE ARE A LONG WAY FROM THEIR IMPERIUM.)

(SOMETHING'S BEEN JETTISONED FROM THE SHIP.)



(YES, SOME MANNER OF LANDING CAPSULE, FROM THE LOOK OF IT.)

(I BELIEVE THE ALMERACIANS EMPLOY SUCH TEMPORARY RE-ENTRY VEHICLES FOR THEIR EXPLORERS AND...)



(...WARRIORS.)
(OH, NO...
DRAAGA!)

(AT LAST...
I FACE YOU
AGAIN.)

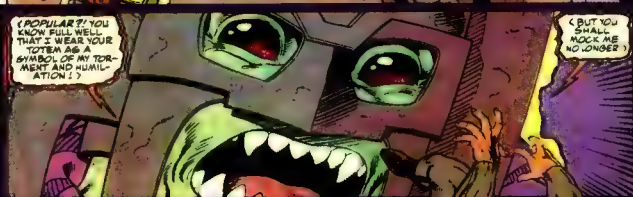
???



(HEAR ME, SUPERMAN. I WILL NOT AGAIN BE THWARTED ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. I MUST REGAIN MY HONOR.)

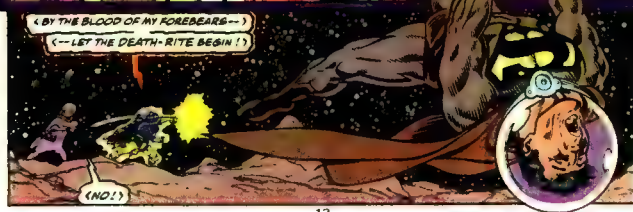
(I'M AFRAID YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE. BUT I SEE YOU ALSO WEAR THE EMBLEM OF SUPERMAN.)

(HAS THAT BECOME POPULAR IN THESE PARTS?)



(POPULAR?! YOU KNOW FULL WELL THAT I WEAR YOUR TOTEM AS A SYMBOL OF MY TORMENT AND HUMILIATION!)

(BUT YOU SHALL MOCK ME NO LONGER.)



(BY THE BLOOD OF MY FOREBEARS--)

(--LET THE DEATH-RITE BEGIN!)

(NO!)

(DRAAGA, YOU CANNOT DO THIS! SUPERMAN SPARED YOUR LIFE IN THE GREAT GAMES!)

(I KNOW, THAT IS WHY I MUST FIGHT HIM TO THE DEATH!)

(NOW SON OF KRYPTON, WE FINISH WHAT WE BEGAN IN THE ARENAS OF MARGHOL!)

(WHA--? NO, YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE!)

(B-BUT HIS MIND IS ADDLED... HE DOES NOT FULLY REMEMBER...)

(THEN I SHALL REMIND HIM...)

(IT WAS YOU WHO MADE THE MISTAKE SUPERMAN! I WAS MONGUL'S CHAMPION--)

(--DUTY-BOUND TO SERVE THE TYRANT OF MARGHOL, WHEN YOU DEFEATED ME IN THE GAMES, I HAD YOU BLAIN ME THEN, I WOULD HAVE DIED AN HONORABLE DEATH!)

(THERE MUST BE A RECKONING, SUPERMAN!)

(WON'T ANYONE LISTEN TO ME? I'M NOT SUPERMAN! I'M--)

(BUT NO, YOU LET ME LIVE ON-- IN SHAME AND DISGRACE!)

SMASH!

*IN ACTION ANNUAL #2.

"DRAAGA IS AN EXCELLENT TOOL..."

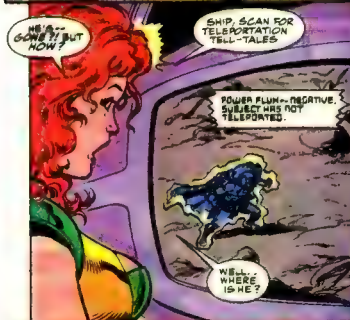
(...IN FIGHTING FOR HIS OWN PRIDE, HE DELIVERS MY REVENGE UPON THE FOOL WHO DARED REJECT MY LOVE...)

(SAVE YOUR BREATH, KRYPTONIAN! THERE'S PRECIOUS LITTLE AIR UPON THIS PLANET D.D.)

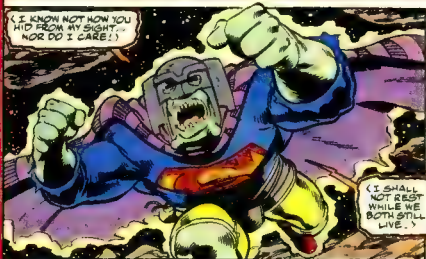
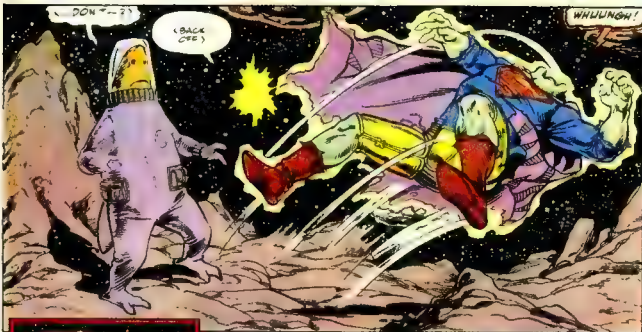
(I'M... NOT...)

AND IN HIS RAGE HE JUST MIGHT BEAT THE SUPERMAN

*IN ACTION #651.



OH NO! NO, PLEASE...



«... THEN, PERHAPS,
WE SHALL GET TO
THE BOTTOM OF THIS!»

«YOU ARE
THE MOST
SURPRISING
FOE I HAVE
EVER FOUGHT,
SUPERMAN!»

«I ALMOST ADMIRE
YOUR ADAPTABILITY!»

«BUT THERE
CAN BE NO
ALLOWANCE FOR
ADMIRATION IN
THE DEATH-RITE!»

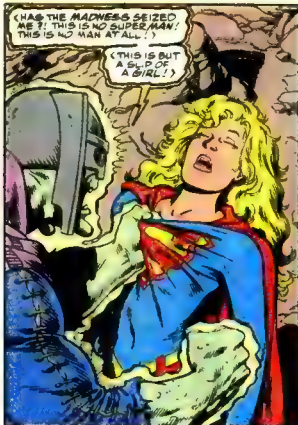
«STILL
YOU MOVE?
VERY
WELL...»

«... THEN YOU SHALL
MEET YOUR END
DIRECTLY BY MY
HAND!»

«LET THE SHAME
BE ERASED! LET
HONOR BE REBORN
OUT OF THIS DEATH,
AND...»

«...WHAT... IS...
THIS?!»

«NO...
I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT!»



(HAS THE MADNESS SEIZED ME?! THIS IS NO SUPERMAN! THIS IS NO MAN AT ALL!)

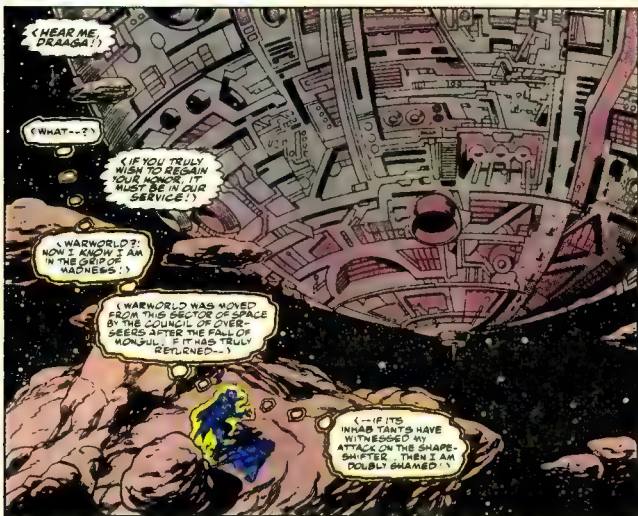
(THIS IS BUT A SLIP OF A GIRL!)



(BY THE GRID, HAVE I BEEN FIGHTING A SHAPE-SHIFTER?!)

(IT DID SAY THAT IT WAS NOT SUPERMAN, BUT WHY WOULD SUCH A CREATURE HAVE TAKEN HIS FORM?)

(WHY?)



(HEAR ME, DRAAGA!)

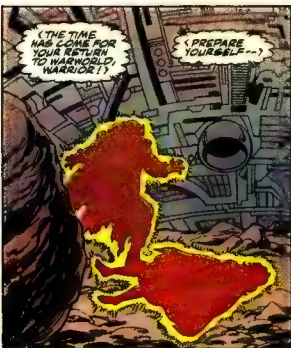
(WHAT--?)

(IF YOU TRULY WISH TO REGAIN YOUR HONOR, IT MUST BE IN OUR SERVICE!)

(WARWORLD?: NOW I KNOW I AM IN THE GRIP OF MADNESS!)

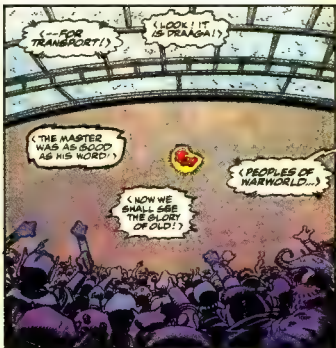
(WARWORLD WAS MOVED FROM THIS SECTOR OF SPACE BY THE COUNCIL OF OVERSEERS AFTER THE FALL OF MONSIEUR. IF IT HAS TRULY RETURNED--)

(--IF ITS INHABITANTS HAVE WITNESSED MY ATTACK ON THE SHAPE-SHIFTER, THEN I AM DOUBLY SHAMED!)



(THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOUR RETURN TO WARWORLD, WARRIOR!)

(PREPARE YOURSELF...)



(--FOR TRANSPORT!)

(LOOK! IT IS DRAAGA!)

(THE MASTER WAS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD!)

(NOW WE SHALL SEE THE GLORY OF OLD!)

(PEOPLES OF WARWORLD...)



(...YOUR LOYALTY TO ME HAS BEEN REWARDED AS I PROMISED, I HAVE RETURNED YOUR GREAT WARRIOR TO YOU!)

(DRAAGA HAS INITIATED THE DEATH-RITE, BUT I SEE THAT HE HAS ERRED IN THE CHOICE OF HIS OPPONENT.)

(HE BOUGHT THE LAST SON OF KRYPTON... HE HAS FOUND NAUGHT BUT A LIVING MATRIX.)



(THE TIME HAS NOT YET COME FOR THE DEATH-RITE, DRAAGA.)

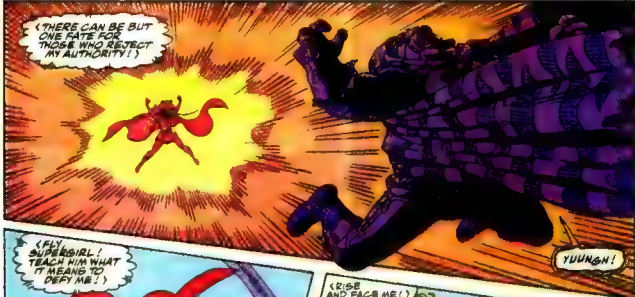
(AND WHAT IS THIS MATRIX OF WHICH YOU SPEAK?)

(I... AM... THE MATRIX.)

(STILL, YOU WILL HAVE YOUR CHANCE TO BE A MIGHTY CHAMPION AGAIN, IF YOU PLEDGE FEALTY TO ME.)

(I SHALL NOT PLEDGE FEALTY TO ONE I DO NOT KNOW HOODED ONE! WHO ARE YOU?)

(IN THIS FORM... I AM CALLED SUPERGIRL!)





(DRAAGA HAS FALLEN.)

NO NEED TO CONTINUE IN INTERLAC, SUPERGIRL. I QUITE LIKE THE SOUND OF ENGLISH.

I THINK WE SHALL SPARE POOR DRAAGA. HE MAY YET PROVE USEFUL TO US... AFTER ALL, WE HAVE AN ENEMY IN COMMON.

WE DO?

WE DO, INDEED! I THINK, SUPERGIRL... THERE IS AN IMAGE FORMING IN YOUR MIND... AN IMAGE OF THAT HATED FOE!

WHO IS HE? WHO IS YOUR GREATEST ENEMY?

SUPERMAN! SUPERMAN IS MY ENEMY!

OF COURSE HE IS! AND WHO IS YOUR LORD AND MASTER?

BRAINIAC!

BRAINIAC!

YES!

BRAINIAC!

BRAINIAC IS COMING! AND NOT ALL OF EARTH'S HEROES MAY BE ENOUGH TO STOP HIM! THE FIRST ATTACK BEGINS NEXT WEEK IN SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #4! IT'S THE MONSTER EPIC WE JUST HAD TO CALL...

PANIC IN THE SKY!

REACTION

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Dear Mike:
Re: ACTION COMICS #670

A brand-new spin on the old Atomic Skull turns out to be a new spin on the old "misunderstood monster" theme as well. That's if you can call the Skull misunderstood, if not a monster. Impressive, to say the least.

Is it safe to assume that the Parasite managed to escape the wreckage at S.T.A.R.? A good villain shouldn't go to waste. Good to see the return of "Terrible" Turpin, plus the debut of Lex Luthor II, who may be the physical match for Supes that his father wasn't. Just where was this guy all these years—camped out in the outback, perhaps? Big and strong, he may be immune to imprisonment like his dad, but he won't be afraid to give the Man of Steel a fight. I can assure you.

See you in 30.

Jacob Gilbert
Troy, NY

Lex Jr. doesn't seem to be the fighting type, Jacob, and even if he were, I don't think a rugged upbringing will be enough for him to go toe to toe with Superman!

Dear Actioneers:

If Joe Martin is such a big fan of the Atomic Skull, why does he draw a stylized atom on his chest? Check the movie poster.

Patrick Ross
Goleta, CA

He's crazy, Patrick.

Dear Mike:

Well, I still hate your logo, but "SUPERMAN IN ACTION COMICS" #670 was quite good. I noticed that the art tended to suffer in places but was for the most part halfway decent.

I do wish you DC folks could get together on such things as Monarch's eye color. In ARMAGEDDON 2001 #1 Monarch's eyes were blue and everyone thought that this was a big clue to his identity; however, Hank Hall's eyes are brown, so there goes that theory. Now, I can buy the original blue eyes because with all of Waverider's messing about he may very well have caused a different hero to become Monarch, thus changing the color in ARMAGEDDON 201 to Hawk's brown. In ACTION COMICS #670, however, we see the Hank Hall Monarch with blue eyes. This is a blatant error.

I'm getting tired of the Parasite. I never liked him in his original form and I like him even less despite his new

purpleness. I'm tired of the constant struggle to keep him subdued. You people can't capture him without having him escape an issue or two later. It's been done already! Cut it out! Why in the name of Mildred Filmore haven't you got rid of him yet? He's outlived his usefulness and has graduated into pure annoyance. Ditch the puppy.

On other notes, I really like the new Atomic Skull. I like the new look for him. When I heard that he would be returning I cringed, thinking of the gaudy old yellow costume. Yellow villains don't get much work; just ask Goldface and the Yellow Peril. Also, congratulations for finally getting off your butts and introducing Lex II. I'm sorry I'm so crabby, but some of these plotlines are just getting drawn out far too long. We've been waiting for the appearance of the new Luthor for four months, and I think that's way too long. I have the same opinion concerning the Jimmy Olsen plot. Most of these little backup plots can be taken care of once and for all within three issues, and you people are dragging them out to infinity cubed! I'm not saying that they're bad plotlines, but they're getting very, very old. You've moved beyond suspense and into the realm of irritation and I, for one, would like to see such trends come to a quick halt.

Juice S. Aaron
Starkville, MS

We're sorry you feel that way, Juice, but you're one of the very few people who feel that way. Most fans like the pacing just the way it is, allowing us ample room to explore the facets of each character—and there are a lot of them! Rather than gloss over the events that shape each member of the supporting cast, we prefer to let each storyline run its natural course; it makes for better drama that way.

Yes, we goofed on Monarch's eye color, but with the tight-lipped secrecy surrounding the true identity of the big bruiser, even we weren't sure who he really was! (Psst...Mike, he didn't notice that Monarch's machine of death changed colors between ARMAGEDDON #2 and ACTION as well! Ha-ha!) Fair is fair, though, and to show you that we don't mind a little crabbiness, that Baldy Award is winging its way to you, first-class! (By the way, you can also add Jerry Ordway to the list of people who can't stand yellow villains!)

Dear Actioneers:

Whoa! Dynamite epilogue to the ARMAGEDDON 2001 issues! (Hawk and Dove aren't really dead, are they?)

Besides a generous scattering of heroes on the cover and the pages of ACTION COMICS #670, by artist and writer alike, I really appreciated the brief appearance of Deadman. It's been too long since everyone's favorite disembodied hero has appeared anywhere, so it was thrilling to see him here, especially turning up in the body of a much-confused Prof. Hamilton. Thanks, guys, for all the costumes parading through the issue. Cameos by the Justice League, Dr. Fate, the Guardian, Gangbuster and the like made for a lively chapter in the Armageddon saga.

The transformation of Joe Martin into the Atomic Skull was a fascinating mixture of tragedy and suspense! The story starts out interesting enough when this young stranger discovers from the doctor that he has the metagene. A bizarre chain of events follows the destruction of S.T.A.R. Labs and the attack of Monarch. The reader can't help but feel sorry for what Joe is going through, but we're enthralled nonetheless. From the encounter with the street gang and his confrontation with the Man of Steel in the theater, the Skull's origin built up to the story's cliffhanger perfectly! I can't wait to see him and Superman duke it out in the next chapter! We have the makings of a great villain here.

Speaking of villains, there's no doubt that his disappearance from the S.T.A.R. Labs wreckage means that the Parasite (drum roll, please) has escaped! He's too good a villain to simply crush under a building, especially after his appearances in the last several Superman titles. I'm sure we'll see him again. The main questions are "Where?", "When?" and "How?"

Lois Lane once again shows an amazing capacity for resourcefulness by organizing a support group in her apartment. Perry White once again gets mad when he discovers what big business is doing to his paper! The big headline in this issue, of course, was our first look at Lex Luthor III! What will this affable, red-headed giant have in store for the Man of Steel when he arrives in Metropolis? I can't wait to find out!

Bob McLeod and Denis Rodier did a superb job with the motion of this tragic tale. They showed that they can draw not only a great-looking Superman, but a large pantheon of heroes and villains as well! Glenn Whitmore had quite a job ahead of him, and enhanced "Skullduggery" perfectly, making it a hit!

Neil Ahlquist
Minneapolis, MN

>Hello: Yikes! As if Metropolis hasn't had it bad enough this past year, now Monarch has to go and destroy S.T.A.R. Labs! The new Atomic Skull seems interesting, but seemingly only as a one-shot villain. I liked the homage to Curt Swan's version. I also liked the purple and green Parasite; he didn't look right until now, and I'm not one of those "They got the post-Crisis DC Universe all wrong" people! The Parasite was one of the few comics villains who actually scared me as a kid. I hope you keep him living up to his sinister potential. I'm glad you tied in with the physical aftermath of ARMAGEDDON 2001, but what of the emotional effects? Shouldn't Supes be a little disheartened to know that Captain Atom is gone, and one of his comrades (had he and Hawk even met?) has turned evil—and should create an ugly future, and Waverider's quest has failed (and where is Dove)? I'm looking forward to what you're doing with the new Luthor. Is he going to be a megalomaniac like his father? And what with all Luthor's wives (five, eight?), shouldn't there be some other heirs to the L.L. fortune?

I'm sure you're going to get a lot of letters asking about Captain Atom's version of the Atomic Skull. I don't care what connection you draw between the two, but I hope you'll hang on to the Cap version (who was a lot more interesting—sorry) at least long enough to explain his chest emblem (and no, it's not a moot point simply because Cap is now gone!). I suppose the three versions—that of the 1970's, the Cap revision, and the Supes Atomic Skull should be related. Perhaps the "Skull" is really a single radioactive entity that possesses certain people under the right circumstances (and letting them maintain some individuality) or, like a computer virus, it's spreading in order to create a cult of "half-lifers" to become the new version of the SKULL organization. Then again, maybe it's just a coincidence....not!

Craig E. Canevit
(address not provided)

Yes, way! The Atomic Skull is not related to the Captain Atom foe, Craig, and for the record, Captain Atom is not dead—just check out the hot new miniseries ARMAGEDDON 2001: THE ALIEN AGENDA for details!

Dear Action-Packers:

There's a lot of stuff going on in Metropolis, and it's nice to see that we're seeing more of it than we used to. The city-room-in-exile was priceless. There are people in the books now, not just Superman, the villain, and the occasional passers-by who have to be protected from flaming debris.

And Perry White has quite the job cut out for him as well. He's got a problem very similar to Superman's if you think about it. He cares as much as Supes cares for Metropolis, and both feel terrible guilt if anything happens that they could have prevented if they hadn't been thinking of themselves. Perry's got the makings of a heart attack there; I know the signs.

We get to see Superman's version of that dedication very nicely in the scene

looking through the wreckage of S.T.A.R. Labs. And since there's nobody left alive in the wreck, that means either the Parasite is dead, or...well, you know. Very nice way to set up the idea of finally looking into S.T.A.R. at last, as well. A lot of comics fans on CompuServe and assorted other networks have been discussing this topic quite recently...are we clairvoyant or are you peaking?

Well, well, well...Lex Luthor the second at last. This should be good. There are two possibilities here. Either he's gonna make a laughing stock of LexCorp, or he's gonna prove to be a chip off the Luthor block. (Of course, this is all assuming that Luthor is dead. Nope, not me. Don't buy it, sorry.)

And as for the Atomic Skull, well, the AS is one of my favorite late Superman villains, and I'll be real pleased to see him revived, in any form. And this origin plays up a topic that's puzzled me for quite a while: whether there's some subconscious control a person has over how their metagene kicks in. Consider: Barry Allen is a fan of the original Flash, he gets super speed. Ralph Dibny wants to become an India Rubber Man, he gets stretching powers. This fella is a fan of the old serials (GREAT way to get the old costume in, by the way...) and he gets power similar to his "hero." Considering all the work S.T.A.R. is doing with meta-humans, not to mention the IMHS over in SUI-CIDE SQUAD, that might be proven correct any time now.

Vinnie Bartilucci
Eimont, NY

Not a bad theory, Vinnie; it's nice to know you folks out there are paying attention. Perhaps the upcoming S.T.A.R. Labs miniseries will shed some light on the subject. Hint hint! Oh, and by the way, we're always watching.

Dear Superman:

Comic books started out as a mere hobby for me a couple of years ago. I've read various titles and have become hooked, but your SUPERMAN comics are my favorite. I guess that's why I have a subscription to all four of your titles!

Why? Superman is no longer a boring subject. Ever since Clark Kent proposed to Lois the titles have all become much more exciting. The romance between Clark and Lois is great, and Superman's more emotional side (family, friends, Earth) is a lot more visible.

These are only some of the reason's I'm hooked on the SUPERMAN titles, and comics are starting to get me in trouble! I spend almost all of my allowance on back issues of ACTION COMICS, SUPERMAN, and ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN. My sister says I'm addicted—no argument there—and my parents scold me for buying so many. I guess you could call me a "Super-Comic Freak." I'm proud of it! But don't worry, I'll still buy your titles.

Just a few questions and I'll fly away to my "comic room."

1) Are there any plans for a Superman and Batman team-up?

2) When is the wedding between Clark and Lois going to take place? I notice that ACTION COMICS is approaching issue #700, ADVENTURES

is closing on #800, and SUPERMAN is near #100. So which is it?

Anyway, you've got work to do and I've got money to spend, so up, up and away!

Brett Kreisman
St. Louis, MO

Thanks for writing, Brett. In answer to your questions:

1) Just three weeks from now in SUPERMAN #65 and ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #488, Batman—and a whole bunch of your favorite heroes—will be teaming up with Superman for the "Panic in the Sky" extravaganza!

2) No comment! But don't quote us! —Dan Thorland
Say No More, Eh?

NEXT WEEK: Here we go! SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #9 (a.k.a. "Panic in the Sky," First Strike!) kicks off the crossover of the season when Brainiac attacks Metropolis in a deadly dawn raid! It's up to Superman stop the machine of destruction hovering over his beloved home, but can he do it alone? Louise Simonson, Jon Bogdanove, and Dennis Janke have the answers!

IN TWO WEEKS: The situation is desperate: Warworld is on its way and two of DC's mightiest heroes have already fallen to the power of Brainiac—let's face it, Superman needs help! The call to arms reaches all corners of the globe, and the Man of Steel is now the man in charge! Excitement, action, and more guest stars than you can shake a stick at—or a tree trunk, for that matter—in SUPERMAN #65! Don't miss "Panic in the Sky," Second Strike, by Dan Jurgens and Brett Breeding.

IN THREE WEEKS: in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #488, Superman leads a squadron of Earth's most powerful heroes in a daring attack on Warworld! Non-stop action, non-stop thrills! Earth is left almost undefended. Will Brainiac attack now or ambush our gallant heroes when they arrive on Warworld? Don't miss "Panic in the Sky," Third Strike, by Jerry Ordway, Tom Grummett, and Doug Hazlewood!

IN ONE MONTH: The battle is in full swing, and Superman needs the aid of an insider to defeat the awesome forces of Warworld...who will it be? Draaga? Maxima? Or will Supergirl finally come to her senses? The answers will shock you! Be here for ACTION COMICS #675 when Roger Stern, Bob McLeod, and Danie Rodier bring us "Panic in the Sky," Fourth Strike!

How about that cover, eh? Laid out by Dan Jurgens and finished by Bob McLeod, we bet it just hopped off the racks and grabbed ya! Let's have a round of applause for the gents who gave us this classic! Yeah!



SOOPAH-BEAST, SOOPAH-BEAST!
HE'S SOOPAH-BEASTLY!